

OTTAWA, ILLINOIS, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1840.

Opposition! Opposition!! is the constant cry, and if requested to name and point out that which is worthy of opposition, they will descend loud and long upon reasons! which have no more to do with the question involved, than the Koran has with the precepts of the Christian Religion.

Here follows the extract of Mr. Beene's letter, appended to which the correspondence referred to between the "Union Association" and Gen. Harrison's "committee," may be found. Compare them! "This all we ask. He says:—

Here I might close, and the length to which my letter is already extended, admonishes me that it is time; but as the Whigs denounced Mr. Van Buren, our Democratic candidate for the Presidency, I will ask permission to say a few words respecting his qualifications for the office of President of the United States.

I was once prejudiced against him; I had heard him abused, and had not examined his character. But when Judge White began to show signs of leaving his old Democratic friends, and going into the arms of Clay, Harrison, Webster, and Bell, I began a strict examination. All persons admitted that he had talents of first order. His enemies admitted it. But they contended that he was not a statesman; that he had been on all sides of all questions, and that he was such a "Mazurka," that you could never know any thing about him, until you were undone; and to crown all objections, he was a Federalist. I heard it all. I prosecuted my inquiries. Jackson was his friend—I knew that this great and good man must have been convinced that he was wise and honest, or that he would never promote his views for so high an office. The documents and history of the country were then examined, and as I proceeded forward, the clouds gradually removed. He had been a friend of Mr. Jefferson, and supported his administration; he had been the leading member of the Legislature of his own State in giving aid in prosecuting the late war with Great Britain; he had supported the leading members of Mr. Madison's administration; all his public acts had accorded with the principles of the Democratic party from the foundation of our Government. He had opposed the Bank of the United States—

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Government to interfere with or disturb it, would violate the spirit of the compromise which lies at the basis of the Federal compact." He "deprecates the conduct of those who are attempting to coerce their brethren in other States into the abolition of slavery." He declares himself to be the "inflexible and uncompromising opponent of any attempt on the part of Congress to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, against the wishes of the slaveholding States," and "his determination is equally decided to resist the slightest interference with the Constitution of the United States." He observes, "I have with it an argument of all questions involve in the deliberations which led to its adoption, and that the compromise of interests in which it was founded, is binding in honor and good faith, independently of the force of argument on all who live under its protection, and participate in the benefits of which it is the source." "We can only hope to maintain the union of the States, by abstaining from all interference with the laws, domestic policy, and peculiar interests of every other State."

"I prefer," says Mr. Van Buren, "that not only you, but all the people of the United States, shall now understand, that if the desire of that portion of them which is favourable to my elevation to the Chief Magistracy be gratified, I must go into the Presidential Chair, the inflexible and uncompromising opponent of any attempt on the part of Congress to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia against the wishes of the slaveholding States, and also, with the determination equally decided, to resist the slightest interference with the subject in the States where it exists." "I do not hesitate to give it as my deliberate and well settled opinion that there are objections to the exercise of this power [the power of Congress over the slaves in the District of Columbia] against the wishes of the slaveholding States, as imperative in their nature and obligations, in regulating the conduct of public men, as the most palpable want of constitutional power would be." The letter from which the above extracts are taken, was written on the 6th of March, 1836.

Mr. Van Buren has now been President for three years, and his administration of the General Government has been prosperous and happy. It is true, he has had stormy times, but he has steered the ship of State through the angry billows, with great caution and judgment. He has, in all his messages, and public acts, shown that he is governed by the interpretation placed upon the Constitution of the United States by the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions, the safest guides to American statesmen, as understood and explained by Mr. Madison.

The President has, in every part of his Administration, been met, and endeavored to be thwarted, by a strong and angry Opposition, sided by the banks, who have thus far prevented the regulation of the safe keeping and disbursement of the public moneys; but the people, upon sober second thought, are coming to his aid, and the present Congress, in all probability, will settle the great question of the currency according to the powers of the Constitution, and the rights and interests of the people of the United States.

With great respect,
JESSE BEENE.

OAKLAND, near Cahawba, 28th March, 1840.

From the Oswego Palladium.
Gen. Harrison and the Oswego Union Association.

We call public attention to the following most extraordinary reply, made by Gen. Harrison's committee at Cincinnati, to a letter addressed to him by the Union Association, and a copy of the letter of the committee in reply thereto. We assure the public the correspondence is genuine.

Oswego, January 31, 1840.
To the Hon. Wm. H. Harrison:

DEAR SIR:—In accordance with a resolution of the Union Association of Oswego, I am instructed to propose three questions to you in relation to subjects that a large portion of this section of the country feel a deep interest in. The first is—

Are you in favor of receiving and referring petitions for the immediate abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia?

Second—Are you in favor of a United States Bank, or some institution similar to that for the safe keeping and disbursement of the public moneys, and for giving a uniform currency throughout the United States?

And lastly—Would you favor the passage of a general bankruptcy law by Congress, so that its operations might be equal in all the States of the Union?

past services, and hope, should you be elected to the high office for which you are nominated, that nothing may occur to lessen you in the estimation of a great and free people.

I am, sir, respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
MILES HOTCHKISS,
Corresponding Secretary.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 29, 1840.
Oswego Union Association:

GEN. HARRISON—Your letter of the 31st ult. addressed to Gen. Harrison, has been placed in our possession with a view to early attention. This is unavoidable in consequence of the very numerous letters daily received by the General, and to which his reply in person is rendered absolutely impracticable. As from his confidential committee, you will look upon this response, and if the policy observed by the committee should not meet with your approbation, you will attribute the error rather to ourselves and immediate advisers, than General Harrison. That policy is, that the General make no further declaration of his principles, for the public eye, whilst occupying his present position. Such a course has been adopted, not for purposes of concealment, nor to avoid all proper responsibility; but under the impression that the General's views, in regard to all the important exciting questions of the day, have heretofore been given to the public, fully and explicitly; and that those views, whether connected with constitutional or other questions of very general interest, have undergone no change. The committee are strengthened in regard to the propriety of this policy, that no new issue be made to the public, from the consideration that the National convention deemed it impolitic at the then crisis to publish any general declaration of the views of the great Opposition party, and especially the policy at the present remains unaltered. In the mean time, we cannot help expressing the hope that our friends, every where will receive the letter of Gen. Harrison with some degree of generous confidence. We have no effect upon the public mind, and we are not to be represented in that body; we certainly have a high guaranty, that should General Harrison be the successful candidate for the Presidency, that office will be happily and constitutionally administered, and under the guidance of the same principles which directed our Washington, Jefferson, and Madison. Believing you will concur with us in the propriety of the policy adopted, we have pleasure in subscribing ourselves

Your friends,
DAVID GWYNNE,
J. C. WRIGHT,
O. M. SPENCER.

H. E. SPENCER, Cor. Sec'y.

The committee are now publishing in pamphlet form many of the former expressed opinions of the General, and facts and incidents connected with his past life, which will be forwarded to you at an early moment.

Popular Excitements.

We find some very timely and appropriate remarks upon this subject in the Boston Times, and we are happy to find journals which are not wedded to the interests of any particular party in politics or sect in religion, taking a firm stand and speaking the truth with boldness. Such a course is at present imperiously demanded by the highest interests of the country and of mankind, and those who have the independence to adopt it will never look back upon their efforts with regret. There is great excitement throughout the land—more, in our humble opinion, than is consistent with the advance of truth. The political contest has opened unusually early, with a degree of folly and madness perhaps never surpassed, and an apparent determination to continue lashing the human passions into more violent commotion. In the religious world, too, (of which we would speak with reverence,) there appears to be a strong disposition to play upon the animal feelings and create a sort of frenzy wholly incompatible with the calm and holy precepts of the Bible.

It has become proverbial that this is a country of excitements; its welfare has been much retarded by them, and it will suffer still more deeply if the action of the people is to be thus influenced.—Americans should always bear in mind that they have great responsibilities resting upon them. They have no right to play the fool—they are giving the world an example of self-government, and they are bound by all the hopes of man to govern such as not to disgrace the cause of liberty, or furnish an argument to the enemies of the association, by a course of conduct which, if it is not a disgrace to the cause of which it is the instrument, is at least a great reproach to the human race.

whole edifice must crumble into ruins. Every one admits the necessity of disseminating useful knowledge. Our minds all need enlightening. Man is ignorant enough at the best; he has no surplus intellect to throw away. In the full possession of all his reason he is but a worm of the dust, endowed with faculties which if rightly exercised will enable him to perform the duties devolving on him during his brief and imperfect existence upon earth; but if abused they will only tend to lead him astray. A man who neglects for a single moment or to any extent the calm voice of reason, and yields to artificial excitement or animal passion is so far from being a sage, that he is a madman. He only differs from the inmate of the lunatic asylum in the degree of his insanity. While the frenzy lasts the one is equally as fit to discharge the duties of life as the other. Is it not therefore outrageous that journals and orators professing to have the public welfare at heart will dig out facts, utter falsehoods and resort to artificial means to create excitement, with the hope of carrying their measures by this temporary insanity instead of by sober reason?

We would not repress the ardor, the firm and spirited action caused by a rational conviction of great and important truths. But this is a very different thing from that temporary madness got up for the purpose of sweeping men along in spite of their judgments. We would encourage all men to think, to examine thoroughly the truth of what they see and hear, either in newspapers, pulpits or political assemblies. Let them first satisfy their judgments and they will then act in the spirit of truth—with the calmness, firmness and intelligence which should characterize Americans above all others. Whoever attempts to carry a point by means of excitement may always be set down as a mad man himself, or else as the advocate of a cause so bad that it cannot be sustained by reason and truth.

—New York Sun.

What is meant by an Independent Treasury?

Suppose a farmer in the town of Troy, has an annual income in the State of Ohio of \$20,000. He employs an individual residing in Ohio to collect it for him; who he has placed under bonds for the payment of the money when called for, and who is also liable to be imprisoned in the State Prison for appropriating it to his own use, or for defrauding his principal. Now, in the spirit of candor and sincerity, we ask this farmer whether he would rather have his agent, who is directly responsible to him, to retain and keep this money until called for, or whether he would prefer that his agent should deposit this money with a third person, not responsible to him at all, and who is engaged in the speculation of stocks, real estate, &c., whose circumstances are always uncertain by the continual rise and fall of property. This is simply the whole object, effect and operation of the Independent Treasury bill, which provides that all those who collect and receive the public moneys shall execute a bond to the government, with good, sufficient, responsible, and undoubted securities for the safe-keeping and payment of the same, and declaring that any person so collecting the government money's who shall be guilty of appropriating them to his own use, or shall refuse to pay the same over to the Secretary of the Treasury, when called for, shall be confined in the State Prison, for not more than five and not less than two years, instead of depositing the same as heretofore with the banks in places where the public revenue is reserved, to be loaned out, not to the farmers and mechanics, but to individuals who are engaged in extensive and hazardous, and doubtful speculations, and the payment of which depends entirely upon the success they may have in turning their investments to profit.

Under the system proposed by the Independent Treasury bill, the public moneys are not subject to any contingency, but are always ready at a moment's warning. There is nothing in the law calculated to injure the reputation, responsibility, or credit of the banks; nothing calculated to infringe upon their rights, or to trample upon their privileges; but the law leaves them in precisely the same situation that they were before the public moneys were deposited with them, to attend to the legitimate purposes for which they were originally incorporated, disconnected wholly, as they should be from the politics of the country.

The Independent Treasury bill is nothing more nor less than this. We do not wish the people to take our word for it, but to see it as it is, and to rely upon it as a fact.

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